

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A case comprising:

a containing part adapted to contain a plurality of objects that are overlapped and disposed in a raised position in the containing part ~~objects to be contained~~;

b' a lid part disposed on an opening of said containing part and connected to said container part by a hinge part, said lid part operable to be freely opened and closed; and

at least one pair of locking portions, said locking portions being operable to be engaged with each other and disposed in areas near corners of both side faces of said opening of said containing part and an opening of said lid part, and

wherein said locking portions extend along said side faces of said container and said side faces of said lid part in a direction of a vertical axis of said case, said direction of said vertical axis corresponding to a direction of opening of said case.

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2. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said areas near said corners extend from a front face of said case along said side faces to a point that is less than or equal to one fourth of a width of each of said side faces of said case.

3. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions comprise a shape of a first depression and a first projection and a shape of a second projection and a second depression which are adapted to be engaged with each other.

4. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions comprise a depression and a projection which are adapted to be engaged with each other, or a projection and a depression which are adapted to be engaged with each other.

5. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions are disposed at areas near corners at a front side of said case, and disposed at substantially middle areas of both said side faces of said openings of said containing part and said lid part.

6. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions comprise an undercut shape.

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7. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions are disposed at areas near corners at a front side of said case, and disposed at areas near corners at a back side of said case.

8. (currently amended): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein ridgelines of said projections and depressions of said locking portions are rounded.

B' 9. (currently amended): A case comprising:
a containing part comprising a deep container portion and an outer stepped portion having a thin wall thickness at an open edge of an opening of the containing part, said containing part being adapted to contain a plurality of objects that are overlapped and disposed in a raised position in the containing part ~~objects to be contained~~;

a lid part provided with an inner stepped portion having a thin wall thickness at an open edge of an opening of said lid part, said lid part being disposed on said opening of said containing part and connected to said containing part by a hinge part, said lid part being operable to be freely opened and closed; and

at least one pair of locking portions, said locking portions adapted to be engaged with each other and disposed in areas near corners of both side faces of said opening of said containing part and an opening of said lid part;

wherein said outer stepped portion of said containing part and said inner stepped portion of said lid part are adapted to be engaged with each other; and

wherein said locking portions extend along said side faces of said containing part and said side faces of said lid part in a direction of a vertical axis of said case, said direction of said vertical axis corresponding to a direction of opening of said case.

10. (new): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said areas near said corners includes a range within one fourth of a width of each of the side faces of the case.

11. (new): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking portions are provided in substantially middle areas of both the side faces of the openings of the containing part and the lid part.

12. (new): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two pairs of locking portions are provided in one side surface.

13. (new): The case as claimed in claim 10, wherein said areas near said corners includes a range of 0 mm to 7 mm from a corner of the case.
